

Message Text

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62

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 INT-08 SCI-06 FEA-02 AID-20 CIEP-02

TRSE-00 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 COME-00 INRE-00 DRC-01

/175 W

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R 182147Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7229

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 00874

STATE ALSO FOR T/IEP

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, UK

SUBJECT: ENERGY: FCO COMMENTS ON JANUARY 14-15

EC COUNCIL AND FEBRUARY 11 MEETING IN WASHINGTON

1. FENN (FCO, ENERGY DEPARTMENT) MADE NUMBER OF COMMENTS
ON JANUARY 14-15 EC COUNCIL MEETING AND LIKELY EC

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APPROACH TO FEBRUARY 11 MEETING IN WASHINGTON.

2. ACCORDING TO FENN, MOST ALL EC MINISTERS AT COUNCIL WERE ANXIOUS TO HAVE IMMEDIATE ACCEPTANCE OF INVITATION TO WASHINGTON MEETING. UK AND OTHERS EMPHASIZED US INITIATIVE MADE NOT IN SPIRIT OF CONFRONTATION, CITING PARALLEL MESSAGES TO OPEC COUNTRIES, AND CONTAINED PROVISION FOR DEVELOPING DIALOGUE BETWEEN CONSUMERS AND PRODUCERS.

3. FENN SAID FRENCH "MADE NO BONES ABOUT THEIR WELL-KNOWN RESERVATIONS". THEY STATED FOR RECORD THAT US INITIATIVE LOOKED LIKE A LINING UP FOR CONFRONTATION / WITH PRODUCER STATES WHICH, FENN COMMENTED, WOULD ENABLE GOF TO SAY "I TOLD YOU SO" IF US PROPOSAL SHOULD FAIL. FRENCH ALSO RAISED QUESTION OF WASHINGTON AS APPROPRIATE VENUE FOR MEETING AND FAILURE TO USE OECD AS FORUM. FENN NOTED FRENCH ARE NOT COMMITTED TO PARTICIPATING AND BELIEVED THEY MIGHT DECIDE AGAINST ATTENDING FEBRUARY 11 MEETING. FENN COMMENTED THAT EVEN IF FRENCH DECIDED TO PARTICIPATE, "CHANCES ARE FON MIN JOBERT WILL NOT GO.

4. SO FAR AS HMG ATTENDANCE IS CONCERNED, FINAL DECISION NOT YET TAKEN BUT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ENERGY LORD CARRINGTON PROBABLY WILL REPRESENT UK. AS NEW ENERGY "SUPREMO" CARRINGTON IS LOGICAL CHOICE AND, IN ANY EVENT, SIR ALEC DOUGLAS-HOME MIGHT FIND IT DIFFICULT TO TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON HAVING JUST RETURNED FROM SCHEDULED AFRICAN TRIP.

6. FENN CHARACTERIZED ALL BUT FRENCH AS ENTHUSIASTIC AT PROSPECT OF FEBRUARY 11 MEETING BUT OBSERVED THIS DID NOT MEAN EVERYONE WAS COMMITTED TO US IDEAS ABOUT WHAT SHOULD COME OUT OF MEETING. HE MENTIONED SPECIFICALLY NEED TO MOVE MORE RAPIDLY INTO DIALOGUE WITH PRODUCERS AND EFFORT TO BRING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES INTO DELIBERATIONS.

7. FENN BELIEVED THAT THERE WOULD BE SUBSTANTIAL COORDINATION AND POOLING OF MEMBER STATE VIEWS BEFORE FEBRUARY 11 SO THAT COUNCIL PRESIDENT SCHEEL WILL BE CONFIDENTIAL

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ABLE TO SPEAK ON SOME ISSUES AS EC SPOKESMAN. WHERE NO AGREEMENT REACHED, EACH MEMBER WILL SPEAK FOR ITSELF. FENN EXPECTED NO "RESERVED AREAS" TO EMERGE FROM COORDINATION PROCESS SINCE IN ALL LIKELIHOOD THERE WOULD BE NO PRIOR AGREEMENT ON COMMUNITY ENERGY POLICY ISSUES WHICH EC WOULD THEN HAVE TO DEFEND AS A BLOC IN WASHINGTON.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETINGS, IMPORTERS, EXPORTERS, MEETING DELEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LONDON00874
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740132/aaaabeao.tel
Line Count: 116
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUL 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23-Jul-2001 by maustmc>; APPROVED <28 MAY 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ENERGY: FCO COMMENTS ON JANUARY 14-15 EC COUNCIL AND FEBRUARY 11 MEETING IN WASHINGTON
TAGS: ENRG, UK, US, OPEC, FCO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005